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Food Information Series
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Subject: The why of the livestock slaughter licensing system.

Distribution: State War Board Members, Information Workers, etc.

Suggested Use: Background Information for local stories and for answering questions.

The Government's new slaughter licensing system, provided for in Food Distribution Order 75, is designed to simplify and speed up the operation of the war meat program. Through specific requirements set up for obtaining and maintaining a license, the system makes possible more direct control than heretofore over the activities of all slaughterers.

These requirements are:

- (1) Slaughterers must not deliver more meat into civilian channels than is permitted by their quotas.
- (2) They are required to pay not less than the support price for hogs, as established by the War Food Administration.
- (3) They are not permitted to pay more than the ceiling price for hogs, as established by the Office of Price Administration.
- (4) They must collect the required number of ration points.
- (5) They must comply with any regulations established by the Director of the Food Distribution Administration for setting aside meat for the armed forces or for other war purposes.

Licensed slaughterers continue to operate under the quota system. A slaughterer's monthly quota limits civilian deliveries from his current slaughter to a fixed percentage of his 1942 kill. The quotas, provided for under Director Order 75.1, are announced quarterly.

Slaughter quotas are needed to facilitate the procurement of meat supplies for the armed forces and other essential war purposes. At the same time, they are intended to preserve for each individual slaughterer a proportionate share of the civilian business under the meat rationing program. They prevent some slaughterers, who otherwise would not be required to produce meat for Government war needs, from acquiring substantial portions of the civilian meat business from other slaughterers who are required to supply the Government.

The slaughter quotas permit definite percentages of the Nation's livestock supply to be used by individual slaughterers for the production of meat for civilian sale. They require indirectly that the rest of the national livestock supply move only into those slaughtering plants that operate under

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Federal inspection and are equipped to supply the Government's war needs. In this way, the quotas provide for a division of the total meat supply between civilian and Government uses.

The slaughter quotas do not prevent a slaughterer from shipping his civilian meat supply wherever he chooses, and therefore they are not designed to bring about the proper distribution of civilian meat supplies. They aid indirectly in such distribution through the rationing program, however, by assuring that slaughterers who can sell meat across State lines will have a proportionate share of their previous civilian sales and so will be able to ship part of the meat into those deficit producing areas that they normally serve.

(For further background, see
Information Series No. 25,
"The Why of Livestock Slaughter Permits",
June 1943)